Letters to the Editor

Man—a Gambler

You give prominence to attacks on hospital sweepstakes by the local ministerial association. They stated, "The hospitals in Eire receive only about 15 per cent of all money received by the Irish Hospital Sweepstakes." This is simply not true. Twenty-five per cent of the money received is the first deduction and handed over to the hospitals before any expenses and prize money is allotted.

Up to the end of 1956 the last official figures I have, $103,000,000 have been handed to the hospitals by the Hospital Trusts (1940) Ltd., and no "nation ruined." Thanks to these sweepstakes Ireland has built up a hospital plant as fine as any in the world.

Opponents of state sweepstakes for hospitals refuse to recognize that man is a gambling animal. If he were not he would still be living in a cave. Our pioneering fathers gambled their lives, otherwise we would not be here. Everything we do, nearly, is a gamble, from crossing the street to starting a new business.

A royal commission in Britain in 1951 gave as their finding, that state lotteries are cheap to run. They create no private interest. Their only reason for not recommending them was because the British had so many ways of betting they did not believe enough money would be subscribed to make it worthwhile.

A. P. RAINEY.

577 Transit Road.

Like Old Masters

The Pegasus photo in your issue of March 19 was a most artistic picture. On opening the paper I thought at first it was a reproduction of "Reynolds!" The child's face is just the kind that artist painted; also subjects to the fore and country scene behind, was what most of the old masters chose.

Congratulations to the "Colonist Photo."

N. M. NICHOLSON.

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The Fallout

In Sunday's Colonist, in bold type, on page one, it states, "Lethal Strontium 90 falling very fast." It is the duty of our newspapers to give us news, keep us informed. This the Colonist has done. In Victoria hundreds of us now know, if we didn't know before, about Strontium 90 fallout.

What has happened to us? Have we been lulled into a hypnotic state of apathy, or have we lost our intestinal fortitude? Tomorrow the man of the house will go to his job, the wife and mother will do her house work and tend her children and not a voice raised against this damnable atomic testing which causes this deadly fallout. We have been told that right now Strontium 90 is being found in ever increasing amounts in the bones of the new born infant and young children, and these bones will never make old bones with the stuff that causes bone cancer.

The chairman of the U.S. atomic energy commission admits they were in error regarding the length of time radioactivity remains in the stratosphere. Do you remember, not so long ago, we were told that the radioactivity would remain in the stratosphere for years, and the fallout would be very gradual and absolutely harmless. We were informed a short time ago that our tea was radioactive. In the eastern provinces the milk has a high count. And what about the fish and tuna caught off coastal waters where we all know the fallout has been and is heavy.

I'll tell you. We are so stupid we eat the fish. I feel I am one small voice protesting to ears that will not hear. But if just one person who, after reading this letter and the news item in Sunday's Colonist, has the courage and the will to call the people together and organize, it just might start a snowball that would envelop the world and we could stamp out this befouling of the air we breathe and the murder of future generations.

MILDRED L. VINING.

2220 Cook Street.

Favors Civil Service

It is heartening to find that there is at least one member of the Christian ministry in Victoria with the moral fortitude to defend the civil servants in their battle with the government. I refer to Rev. H. P. Davidson of the United Church. The Colonist also should be commended for printing views contrary to those expressed in its own editorials.

While there is no doubt whatever in one's own mind that Mr. Davidson is correct in his analysis and appraisal of the situation, one cannot help wondering whether he is not too optimistic in his view of public opinion generally, for although it is true that no public outcry against the civil servants was provoked, it is equally and sadly true that there are many who, critical as they may be of the government in other respects, do consider that in this and other labor matters it has acted properly.

This perhaps is not too surprising in view of the government's immense advantage in propaganda resources, which have been used to such effect that more stress has been placed upon the possible effect of a strike by civil servants than on such causes as may be responsible for one.

There is, too, the regrettable expedient employed by the premier in permitting certain of his ministers to express provocative, and often irresponsible views on matters outside their province, notably so in the field of labor in general and on the civil servants issue in particular.

With regard to the former there is of course public works minister Chant's preliminary effort in behalf of Bill 43. More recently we have Highways Minister Gagliardi (also a "reverend") expressing views, more irresponsible perhaps than the premier may care for, on the government's lack of confidence in Dr. Carrothers, which is no doubt as clear an indication and admission as could be wished that the Carrothers' Report contains matters favorable to the civil servants.

Such strategy, while it does not influence those with sufficient perspicacity to understand and deplore it, does nevertheless in the main influence a considerable number of people and prevents a correct general appraisal of the situation. Strategy, however, sometimes backfires.

MARGARET SULLIVAN.

533 Atkins Road,
R.R. 6, Victoria, B.C.

Newfoundland Was Ripe for IWA

Old Unions Decayed

By W. A. WILSON

Second in a Series

Special to the Colonist

In 1935 Newfoundland's Commission Government appointed a Royal Commission to study conditions in the woods and Premier Joseph Smallwood says that its report "revealed a situation so bad the Government never published the report."

"Wages were low, camp conditions were bad, food was bad and the living standards of the loggers abysmally low."

A year later Joe Thompson, now an elderly man, formed the first of four loggers' unions. They secured recognition without much trouble, negotiated agreements and brought a steady improvement in conditions. The Woods Labor Board was formed as a sort of clearing house and source of arbitration in disputes and until last year is conceded to have had an enviable record of success in dealing with wage disputes. Newfoundland's woods wages became the highest in eastern Canada except for parts of Ontario.

Lost Touch

The company, the IWA and Mr. Smallwood agree that two years ago the four existing woods unions had lost touch with their members.

"They'd grown fat and sleek because their founders were still their presidents after 20 years and they'd grown old. There was no life, no liveliness. They didn't get around to the men. They didn't boast enough," Mr. Smallwood says.

The largest independent union, under pressure from the Newfoundland Federation of Labor to affiliate with some international union, began talks with Landon Ladd and the IWA. It is disputed now whether Ladd made the first approach or was invited.

Voted in Favor

At one stage a majority of union delegates voted in favor of joining the IWA but the vote was overruled on the grounds that a two-thirds majority was necessary. Ladd and the IWA moved in, leap-frogging over non-union loggers farther west, a step which annoys many in Newfoundland. They signed up the members of the four independent unions and were certified. Then Ladd made what is widely regarded as a tactical blunder. He refused to negotiate with the companies within the framework of the successful Woods Labor Board and insisted on dealing with them directly.

Both Ladd and some strongly anti-IWA sources say the company did its best to stop the IWA organization drive.

Every Obstacle

"Let's not beat around the bush," said one anti-IWA informant. "The company put every conceivable obstacle in their way."

"The ridiculous opposition of the company became our best organization tactic," Ladd says. "The men felt anything the company opposed so strongly must be good for them."

Later, when the dispute had gone through a conciliation board whose report the company rejected, the union called a strike vote. The company is accused of trying to bar union representatives from its property and it sought an injunction to stop the vote. The union broke down a gate and entered the woods, which led to its first encounter with the police.

Camps 'Homes'

"Their camps were the only place you could take a strike vote," Ladd insists. "They were the men's homes while they were in the woods."

The results of the vote favored a strike by 98.8 per cent on the basis of a count conducted by an impartial committee. The company says the strike was totally effective in the beginning and that only four loggers remained at work.

The union ordered the strikers to stay in the company's camps using a provincial radio network to issue instructions. The strikers ate company food. This was the second breach of the law.

Stole Food

"They stole our food, ransacked our camps. They took our graders and trucks," C. R. Titemore, Anglo - Newfoundlands' mill manager said afterwards. "We definitely couldn't get them out until we got a search warrant. They wouldn't let our supervisors out although they weren't too badly treated.

The union confirms that it kept the strikers in the camps until the food was gone. There were some convictions for what the company terms "minor violence."

"It was a sitdown strike," Ladd said. "The men held 'these are our homes and we'll stay here'."

The company says its decision never to deal with the IWA came at this point "when they took over our whole woods operation.

No Deal

"We felt if they were going to act in that sort of irresponsible manner we couldn't make any deal with them."

The Newfoundland Federation of Labor, which had made a last - minute attempt to negotiate a settlement before the strike started, says a company executive telephoned during an adjournment in negotiations to quote company president Ross Moore as saying that "under no circumstances would they negotiate with the IWA" and that it was this that ended the Federation's intervention.

Flexible Stand

The Federation also insists now that it has asked Ladd whether the IWA's position could be regarded as flexible and whether a settlement for less than the conciliation board report had recommended could be considered. The secretary treasurer of the Federation, who is also head of Newfoundland's Federation of Mayors and Municipalities, says Ladd assured them the union's position was flexible.

The company says that its position was rigid in rejecting the conciliation board report but otherwise flexible and Federation executives say their negotiations appeared to be going well and likely to succeed until they were give Mr. Moore's message. Mr. Moore is not in Newfoundland to give his version.

Return to Work

The company says the strike was effective through January but that at the end of the month loggers were beginning to return to work "on an important scale." There is no dispute that at this stage union pickets raided camps and in one case threw the working loggers out in the snow and in the other smashed the windows.

This further alienated public opinion partly because it became widely known that some of the men had not been allowed time to dress and at least one had been forced out into the snow without his boots.

Impartial Source

The impartial source already quoted believes that if the government had done nothing at all the back to work movement would have continued and the strike would have collapsed by now.

"My intervention took the form of a talk on the provincial network," Mr. Smallwood recalled. The whole population of Newfoundland watched or listened that night. It was the biggest audience Newfoundland has ever had. They'd been expecting it for four days—I had announced when I would speak four days earlier."

The premier urged the formation of another union. Later the House of Assembly unanimously passed legislation decertifying the IWA and imposing heavy penalties for any continued activity by it. The riot at Badger, in which a policeman was killed, followed.

Murder charge in death of a Newfoundland constable was ordered laid against one of striking loggers by Newfoundland Attorney-General Leslie Curtis.

'No One Very Wise'

Growing need for understanding among people of the world was emphasized by Rt. Rev. Stephen Bayne, Bishop of Olympia, Wash., in an address to the Victoria Kiwanis Club.

Bishop Bayne said he grew up in a part of New York City where there were people of several racial origins and religious beliefs, which gave rise to widespread misunderstanding.

There, he said, he learned the first two of what he called the "four cornerstones of understanding."

These two, he said, were "know others—what they believe, what they do, what they are;" and "know yourself."

Growth of liberality and understanding comes only through knowledge, said the bishop, and with knowledge came awareness that there could be "profound unity despite extraordinary differences."

Third cornerstone, he said, was "know the greatness of others."

"Don't look at the differences, but at the greatness in life," he urged. "It has been scattered with a very broad hand, but it exists."

Fourth cornerstone was to "keep always mindful of the limitations of life. No one is very wise . . . the smug, self-satisfied man has no mercy; the man who knows mercy and how little has been accomplished makes possible better understanding in the world."

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The first Danish missionary to Greenland, Hans Egede, arrived at the north Atlantic island in 1721.

No Fallout Secrets, U.S. Official Insists

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Atomic Energy Commission denied Tuesday that it has bottled up any information on radioactive fallout.

Instead, chairman John McCone called for a "government-wide review" of information policy on fallout.

As for defence department reports that radioactive particles may fall to earth sooner than the AEC estimates, McCone said:

"I hope the department of defence will place its findings in the public domain."

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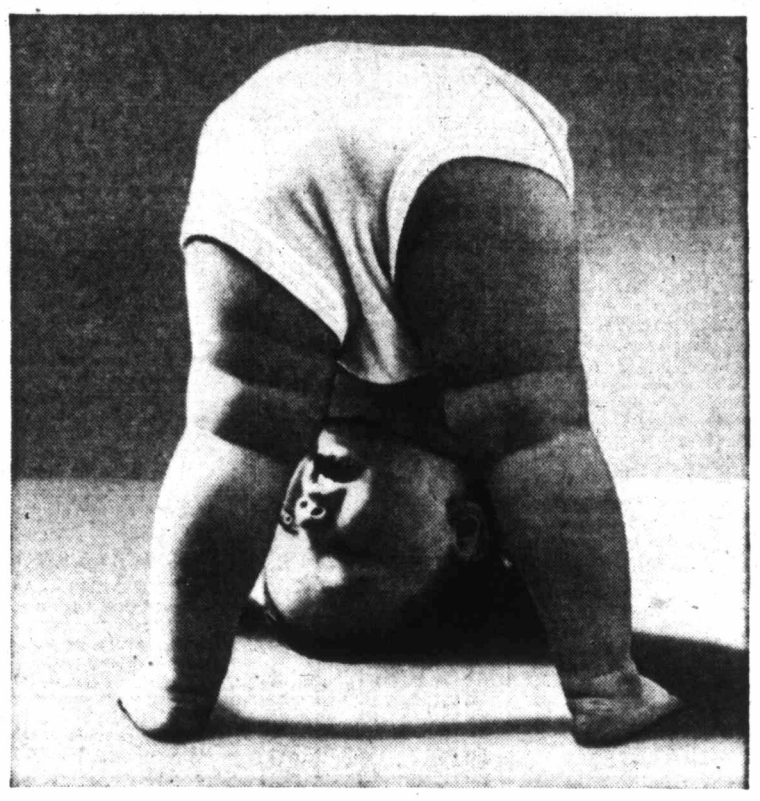

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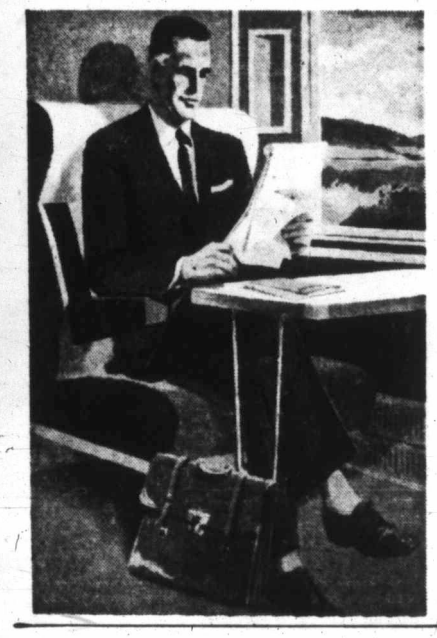

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